Claims

We claim:

1.   A method of displaying a web page, comprising:

     receiving a multi-image file, the multi-image file comprising a primary image and at least
5   one secondary image adapted for cooperative display;

     receiving a web page containing a markup language tag, the markup language tag
     comprising a code specifying which of the primary image and the secondary image
     should be displayed; and

     displaying the web page with the primary image.

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2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

     parsing the multi-image file for an information header, the information header containing
     an image name for each image in the multi-image file.

15   3.   The method of clam 2, wherein the information header further comprises a primary image
     indicator.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the information header further comprises an image
     location for each image in the multi-image file.

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5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to an event, displaying the web page with the secondary image.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the event comprises a mouse-over event.

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7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-image file comprises a menu element.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the markup language tag comprises an HTML code.

10   9.   A web page, comprising:

a multi-image file, the multi-image file comprising a primary image and at least one secondary image adapted for cooperative display; and

a markup language tag, the markup language tag comprising a code specified which of the primary image and the secondary image should be displayed.

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10.   The web page of claim 9, wherein the multi-image file further comprises an image descriptor associated with the primary image and an image descriptor associated with the at least one secondary image.

20   11.   The web page of claim 10, wherein the image descriptor comprises an image name, a primary image indicator, and a default size.

12.   The web page of claim 9, wherein the multi-image file further comprises an information header containing at least one image descriptor.

5   13.   A method of displaying images, comprising:

> receiving a multi-image file, the multi-image file comprising a primary image and at least one secondary image;
>
> selecting an image for display from the multi-image file; and
>
> displaying the selected image.

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14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the multi-image file further comprises a first image descriptor associated with the primary image and a second image descriptor associated with the secondary image.

15   15   The method of claim 13, wherein the first image descriptor comprises a primary image indicator.

16.   A computer program product, comprising:

(a) a program configured to perform a method for rendering images in a computer
20   system, the method comprising:

> receiving a multi-image file, the multi-image file comprising a primary image and at least one secondary image;

selecting an image for display from the multi-image file; and

displaying the selected image; and

(b) a signal bearing media bearing the program.

5   17.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the program comprises a web browser.

18.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the signal bearing media is chosen from the group consisting of information permanently stored on non-writable storage media;
10   alterable information stored on writable storage media; and information conveyed to a computer by a communications medium.

19.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the primary image and the at least one secondary image comprise complementary layers.

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20.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the primary image and the at least one secondary image comprise alternative versions of an image.

21.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the at least one secondary image
20   overlays the primary image.